

March 23, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER (ACWDL)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide guidance to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) on the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 82 (Chapter 6, Statutes of 2021), regarding stipends for Stage One Child Care providers and reimbursement non-operational days for closures due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19 or novel coronavirus).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

March 23, 2021

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: [IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 82](#): ONE-TIME
STIPENDS AND ADDITIONAL PAID NON-OPERATIONAL DAYS
FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SERVING FAMILIES
RECEIVING A CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) STAGE ONE SUBSIDY

REFERENCE: [AB 82](#), (CHAPTER 6, STATUTES OF 2021); [CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
\(CRRSA\) ACT](#), [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 820](#); [ALL COUNTY WELFARE
DIRECTORS LETTER \(ACWDL\) DATED JANUARY 8, 2021](#);
[ACWDL DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2020](#); AND [ACWDL DATED
OCTOBER 2, 2020](#)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with guidance on the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 82 (Chapter 6, Statutes of 2021), signed by the Governor on February 23, 2021. AB 82 authorizes the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allocate funding from the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act to issue one-time stipends in the amount of \$525 per child enrolled in subsidized child care, including CalWORKs Stage One Child Care. AB 82 also authorizes 16 paid non-operational days to child care providers serving a family receiving a CalWORKs Stage One subsidy for closures due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19 or novel coronavirus).

Background

On March 4, 2020, the Governor declared a State of Emergency in California in response to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Child Care and Development Block Grant supplemental payment awarded California funding to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child care providers and the families they serve.

California implemented this additional funding through section 111 of Senate Bill (SB) 820, the 2020-21 Budget Act, which was signed by the Governor on September 18, 2020. This law authorized funds to issue stipends to child care providers receiving a subsidy through CalWORKs Stage One. The first round of stipends were issued in November and were based on the number of children enrolled in care and the average per child cost of care. An [ACWDL](#) with additional information on the first round of stipends was released on November 13, 2020.

SB 820, also authorized funding for CalWORKs Stage One Child Care providers to be reimbursed for up to 14 non-operational days due to COVID-related closures that occurred or will occurring between September 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Eligibility for payment for these 14 days is in addition to the current 10 non-operational days payable to qualifying providers as allowed by Section 18076.2(b)(2) of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. An [ACWDL](#) with additional information regarding the 14 non-operational days was released on January 8, 2021.

On December 27, 2020, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act were signed and allocated supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding to California to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 23, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 82 to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child care providers and the families they serve, including to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic emergency, to provide another round of assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures.

Stipend Checks

Pursuant to AB 82, child care providers serving children through the CalWORKs Stage One, including centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt providers, will receive a flat-rate, one-time stipend check in the amount of \$525 per qualifying child based on November 2020 enrollment. This includes providers who submitted requests for reimbursement for children who were not in care due to the pandemic. These stipends are intended to address cost impacts associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has contracted with the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FoundationCCC) to issue and distribute the stipends to child care providers serving families receiving CalWORKs Stage One Child Care. In counties that contract out their Stage One Child Care program through Alternative Payment Programs (APP), APPs will receive the funding from the Foundation via direct deposit. The APPs will use this funding to distribute stipends to eligible providers.

Additional 16 Paid Non-Operational Days

Pursuant to AB 82, state-subsidized child care providers serving families receiving CalWORKs Stage One Child Care are eligible for an additional 16 paid non-operational days when the provider is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. These 16 paid non-operational days shall be in addition to the current 14 paid non-operational days for COVID-19 pandemic-related closures allowable pursuant to Section 60 of SB 820, and the current 10 paid non-operational days allowable by [Section 18076.2 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations](#), between September 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Closures necessary to allow providers to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine or to recover from COVID-19 vaccine side effects are considered COVID-19 pandemic-related closures.

The CWDs and APPs administering the Stage One Child Care program shall track the usage of paid non-operational days and associated costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and short-term child care to eligible children. Starting in April 2021, CWDs and APPs shall report to the Department monthly on usage of and costs related to non-operational closure days pursuant to this provision of AB 82. This will be done by entering the total non-operational days reported and associated costs at the end of each month in the CalWORKs Stage One COVID-19 non-operational days [survey](#).

Reimbursements for non-operational days must be separately identified and will be made through non-Maintenance of Effort funding in the Single Allocation. Providers are required to mark on their request for reimbursement any COVID-19 related closure days. Counties must have safeguards in place to ensure individual providers are not paid for more than a total of 40 non-operational days between September 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Child Care and Intergenerational Services Bureau by email at CCPB@dss.ca.gov.

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Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division